

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175529

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 L-03 STR-04 SS-15 SP-02

INR-07 /050 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT AGREEMENT

REF: SAN JOSE 3388

1. COSTA RICA IS NOW THE ONLY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WHO HAS NOT SIGNED A 1976 MEAT IMPORT AGREEMENT. THE COMPLETION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS BECOMING CRITICAL SINCE AS OF JUNE 25 US RECEIPTS OF MEAT FROM COSTA RICA HAD REACHED 78 PERCENT OF ITS VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL.

2. THE PROBABILITY OF A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL FOR COSTA RICA IN 1976 IS POOR. THE ONLY INCREASES THAT APPEAR POSSIBLE WOULD RESULT FROM A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE PROGRAM LEVEL OR FROM A SHORT-FALL BY ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANTS. THESE INCREASES COULD

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PAGE 02 STATE 175529

NOT BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE COSTA RICAN

VR LEVEL SINCE ANY INCREASE WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVIDED BY INITIAL PROGRAM SHARES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 OF THE AGREEMENT. FURTHERMORE, SUCH INCREASES COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

3. THEREFORE, DRAWING ON THE ABOVE, YOU SHOULD STRESS AGAIN TO FACIO THE NEED TO COMPLETE ACTION PROMPTLY ON THE VR AGREEMENT.

4. FYI: WE ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE POINT AT WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER CONTROLS ON IMPORTS FROM COSTA RICA. IN THE ABSENCE OF A VRA, WE WOULD BE FORCED TO CONSIDER IMPOSING CONTROLS ON COSTA RICA UNDER SECTION 204 OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1956 BY INTERPRETING THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM AS A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT.
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